

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 29, 2004 has been received and carefully considered. In this response, claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22,-25, 28-31, 37 and 38 have been amended and claim 18 has been canceled. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Telephonic Interview of December 21, 2004

At the outset, the undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on December 21, 2004. During the telephonic interview, the Applicant's representative discussed amending the claims to include limitations related to the processing of a first voice and a second voice to different levels of precision and wherein the number of coefficients used by a finite impulse response filter to process the first voice is different from the number of coefficients used by a finite impulse response filter to process a second voice. The Applicant's representative noted that the cited references did not disclose these limitations. The Examiner agreed but indicated that an additional search may be conducted if the proposed amendments are entered.

Allowability of Claims 3, 12, 19, 23-29 and 34, 41

The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication at pages 7 and 8 of the Office Action that claims 23-29 are allowed and that claims 3, 12, 19, 34 and 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has opted to forgo amending these claims in view of the following remarks. With respect to claims 23-29, it should be noted that the amendments to these claims correct grammatical informalities and do not alter the scope of the claims.

Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 14-18, 20-22, 30-33, 35-40, 42 and 43

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-11, 14-18, 20-22, 30-33, 35-40, 42 and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Connor (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,851). The claims have been amended, thereby obviating this rejection.

Claim 1, from which claims 2-7 depend, has been amended to recite, in part, the limitations of processing a first voice having a first characteristic to a first level of precision

using a first finite impulse response filter, wherein the first level of precision is based on the first characteristic, processing a second voice having a second characteristic to a second level of precision, different from the first level of precision, using a second finite impulse response filter, wherein the second level of precision is based on the second characteristic and wherein a number of coefficients used by the first finite impulse response filter is different from a number of coefficients used by the second finite impulse response filter. As discussed with the Examiner during the Telephonic Interview, the cited references do not disclose or suggest processing first and second noises to different levels of precision as recited by claim 1. Consequently, the cited references necessarily fail to disclose or suggest that the different levels of precision are based on the characteristics of the voices as recited by claim 1. Furthermore, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a different number of filter coefficients is used to filter the each of first and second voices, respectively, as recited by claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, each and every limitation of claim 1, as well as claims 2-7 at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Moreover, these claims recite additional limitations neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

Claim 8, from which claims 9-14 depend, has been amended to recite, in part, the limitations of receiving a first voice data having a first characteristic, receiving a second voice data having a second characteristic, different from the first characteristic, assigning a first number of filter coefficients based on the first characteristic, and assigning a second number of filter coefficients, different from the first number of coefficients, based on the second characteristic. As similarly noted above, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the limitations of assigning a different number of filter coefficients to each of a first voice data and a second voice data based on a first characteristic of the first voice data and a second characteristic of the second voice data, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, each and every limitation of claim 8, as well as claims 9-14 at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 8. Moreover, these claims recite additional limitations neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

Claim 15, from which claims 16-22 depend, has been amended to recite, in part, the limitations of assigning a first number of filter coefficients to a first voice having a first characteristic, wherein first number of coefficients is based on the first characteristic, assigning a

second number of filter coefficients to a second voice having a second characteristic different from the first characteristic, wherein second number of coefficients is based on the second characteristic and is different from the first number of filter coefficients, and where the sum of the first number of coefficients and the second number of coefficients is no greater than a predetermined fixed number of coefficients. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the limitations of assigning a different number of filter coefficients to each of a first voice data and a second voice data based on a first characteristic of the first voice data and a second characteristic of the second voice data, respectively.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, each and every limitation of claim 15, as well as claims 16-22 at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 15. Moreover, these claims recite additional limitations neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

Claim 30, from which claims 31-36 depend, has been amended to recite, in part, the limitations of a program of instructions capable of being stored in memory and executed by a processor, said program of instructions to manipulate said processor to, receive a first voice data having a first characteristic, receive a second voice data having a second characteristic different from the first characteristic, assign a first number of filter coefficients based on the first characteristic, assign a second number of filter coefficients, different from the first number of filter coefficients, based on the second characteristic. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the limitations of assigning a different number of filter coefficients to each of a first voice data and a second voice data based on a first characteristic of the first voice data and a second characteristic of the second voice data, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, each and every limitation of claim 30, as well as claims 31-36 at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 30. Moreover, these claims recite additional limitations neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

Claim 37, from which claims 38-43 depend, has been amended to recite, in part, the limitations of a program of instructions including instructions to manipulate a processor to: receive a first voice data having a first characteristic, receive a second voice data having a second characteristic different from the first characteristic, assign a first number of filter coefficients based on the first characteristic, and assign a second number of filter coefficients,

different from the first number of filter coefficients, based on the second characteristic. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the limitations of assigning a different number of filter coefficients to each of a first voice data and a second voice data based on a first characteristic of the first voice data and a second characteristic of the second voice data, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, each and every limitation of claim 37, as well as claims 38-43 at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 37. Moreover, these claims recite additional limitations neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the anticipation rejection of claim 1, 2, 4-11, 14-18, 20-22, 30-33, 35-40, 42 and 43 is improper at this time and withdrawal of this rejection therefore is respectfully requested.

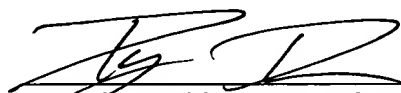
Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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